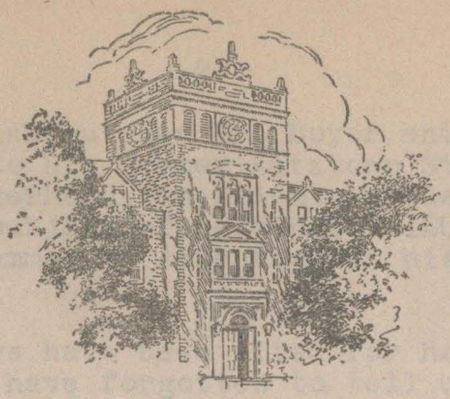
To the

FRONT



from

MUHLENBERG

March 9, 1945

Number 56

Dear Fellows:

I got up bright and early this morning with every good intention of writing this letter first thing out of the box. Some other people around here had different ideas and now it looks as if once again we'll have to burn the midnight oil in spite of all the warnings of our good friend Dr. Fritsch, apparently substantiated by the recent Byrnes curfew directive.

It's a good thing that news is scarce this week because we really have a pile of correspondence to chew through and digest for you. Probably the reason for the shortage of news is because the faculty took a week off between terms and, except for the noise of Haps and the staff, the campus in general took a much needed breather. But now we're back in session once again and Haps reports that somewhere or other he gathered 110 civilian students. Add to that the 193 Bluejackets reassigned by the Navy for another term of 16 weeks and you have the picture--a student body of 303 men. That makes us smaller than we have been in the memory of most of you fellows--but we're still doing better than many colleges whose normal enrollments are far larger than Muhlenberg's and we're mighty happy to be able to report that we're hitting on all cylinders without a miss or a carbon knock.

We have a few other things to be happy about. The basketball team with its record of 23 victories against three defeats, was the second team to be invited to play in the National Invitation Tournament in Madison Square Garden. Garden officials have not as yet announced our date, but the tournament will get underway the middle of this month You'll have to watch the papers. To date six teams have accepted bids to the tourney--St. John's the defending champion, Tennessee, Rhode Island State, DePaul (remember last year), Bowling Green, and Muhlenber Our athletic office has scheduled a game with the Fort Mifflin Marines of Philadelphia for Wednesday, March 14, as a conditioner for the team that has been idle since the season ended February 21. The game will be played in Rockne Hall.

Talking about basketball, the community of Allentown through the efforts of the Downtown Quarterbacks, combined a testimonial dinner for the team with a farewell for Doggie Julian. Members of the team were presented with handsome gold basketball rings on behalf of the community and friends of Doggie gave him a doggie (a terrier) and $900 in War Bonds. Incidentally, Red Baldwin, who scored 337 points for Muhlenberg to rank with the eastern leaders, was named to the 1945 Associated Press All-Pennsylvania collegiate basketball team. Dick Whiting, another of the Bluejackets on the Muhlenberg team, was placed on the AP's third team.

The other thing that makes us chipper today is the results of this year's Alumni Fund. We sent out the first announcement of the fund solicitation to all alumni just two weeks ago and to date 379 alumni have contributed $2947.75 to support the work Muhlenberg is doing. Thanks to all of you fellows who have helped and who are helping to swell that fund. Because of the curtailment in the student body, we'll need considerably more than the $7,029 that came from 895 alumni last year. We're hoping that a gift from every alumnus will give us what we need to carry on and assure Muhlenberg's future. The contributions from you men in the armed forces have really been grand and the special thanks of the College are yours--for more reasons than one.

There are a few more things we should tell you about before we open the mail bag: Dr. Tyson and his son, Apprentice Seaman David Tyson '47 had lunch with Mrs. Roosevelt in the White House the other day and Dave reports that the first lady makes the White House seem like any Allentown home. Dr. Elmer K. Kilmer, whom some of you will remember

became professor of education when Dr. Boyer entered service a few years ago, was married to his former Kutztown State Teachers College classmate, Angeline Wetherhold, an Allentown elementary school teacher. And while we're on the subject of weddings, LIEUTENANT FREDERICK M. HASSOLD '44 took Olga Sommer of Allentown as his bride in the College Chapel on February 24.

Two more of the boys have been cited for honors--and we suspect there are many more who have forgotten to tell us about it. MAJOR G. W. HEINTZELMAN '33 was awarded the bronze star for meritorious service during the 95th Division's historic drive on Metz. A member of the 378th Medical Detachment, he was cited for his work in one battalion aid station where by his efforts it was possible to treat and evacuate 117 casualties in little more than ten hours. CAPTAIN HAROLD E. EVERETT '34, another of the Muhlenberg medicos in action in the European theatre, received a similar award for meritorious service while serving with a medical unit attached to a Ninth Army armored division.

Several of the boys dropped in during the past few days. Among them was LIEUTENANT (j.g.) FRANK TAYLOR '42, just back on a short leave after six months aboard a carrier in the Atlantic and filled with his own quietly-told tales of action. Then there was ENSIGN BOB KINARD '42 with his brand new wings and gold bars, home on a brief leave before returning to Florida for more training that will precede combat duty. CORPORAL RAY COWARD '45 told us something about the Pentagon Building where his work centers about making up the visual records for General Arnold and the Commander-in-chief. We're looking for LIEUTENANT JIM KILPATRICK '33 who, we understand, has arrived on the West Coast after seeing plenty of action in those historic battles in the South Pacific. His wife and daughter are living in Allentown and we expect to see him before he leaves for his next tour of sea duty. Heard something about those actions from Navy LIEUTENANT DICK GOTTLIEB '41, back from duty on one of the big battlewagons.

Now for that mail we were talking about:

Included were several packages. One was a Jap anti-personnel bomb (disarmed, we hope) from LIEUTENANT BOB ALBEE '42. Another--perhaps we shouldn't mention it--included two beautiful bracelets PhM3/c MYRON KABO '42 made while trying to pass time on the long nights at his island base in the Pacific. When LIEUTENANT DICK GOTTLIEB '41 came back, en-route to his new station at Mechanicsburg, he added a picture of a Jap soldier (now with his ancestors) to the display in the lobby.

LIEUTENANT BURTON J. GOOD '42 is at a fighter base in the North Pacific but, apparently because of its strategic importance, the censor deleted all hints regarding its possible location. LIEUTENANT PARIS DeSANTIS '40 pulled out from Bombay and Calcutta and now is helping to keep things moving in Burma. Before he left his former station he had the opportunity to observe some of the strange and interesting religious customs. LIEUTENANT NORMAN GREENAWALT '41 dropped us a line to give us a New Orleans APO address.

Aboard ENSIGN SWEDE SWENSON's LCI in the Pacific waters there seems to be a minor dispute about who went to the best college. If the skipper should ever leave the ship, Swenson will pull his rank and end the argument. He met three fellow members of the Class of 1943--LIEUTENANT (j.g.) CALVIN LOEW at San Diego and at Pearl Harbor and LIEUTENANT (j.g.) HARVEY WITWER and ENSIGN AL STEAD at Pearl. LIEUTENANT HARRY A. STRAUSS '40 had a big surprise shortly after he arrived in Italy when he met LIEUTENANT HUGH BROWN '42 in a Red Cross Officers club in Naples. That was the first news we had that the erstwhile Muhlenberg wrestler was out of the hospital. Just yesterday we heard from T/Sgt. LINFORD STEVER '42, wading through the mud of Iran, and he also spoke of meeting Brown. The boy really appears to be getting around. We've had an inside tip that we may be seeing him in Allentown before too many moons. The mail is full of reunion news. LIEUTENANT RAY K. HEIST '33, who had a ringside seat for the Philippine job, ran into LIEUTENANT KILPATRICK, his classmate and one of his close friends. Surprising thing about it was that the meeting took place in a bar. Those two are slipping.

Yes, that boy TUSS BECKER '43 is back again with the latest news from his own little bailiwick in India. He told us about a letter from SERGEANT BUD BOSSICK '43 who is keeping close contact with the Jerries and who wants to make two more moves--to Berlin and to home. Bossick himself confirmed that in a letter from Holland that followed Becker's by just 24 hours. Describing life in the ETO as "really tough," PFC. ERNIE WALLANDER '46 wrote to us from the bedroom of a French home nursing a fire which wanted to go out. He said that in about two hours he would go to breakfast, bring it back to his room and then spend the rest of the day reading and sleeping. He made it clear, however, that such things occur only when you are out of the front lines, resting and waiting for more. QM2/c BOB ROCKMAKER '40 out on the Pacific aboard an LST, says that the farther away from Allentown he goes, the more intense is his desire to keep in touch with Muhlenberg.

This letter may reach you around St. Patrick's Day, so we'll pass on a little greeting that came from LIEUTENANT COMMANDER LUTHER F. GERHART '22, still in a Pacific area:

"It's the same old fighting story
Of a bunch of fighting Pats,
Still winning fame and glory
In chasing snakes and rats."

PRIVATE K.W. MILLER '47, who used to hang around these offices in his student days, is now in France with a field artillery unit. PFC. BUD BUTTERWICK '46 is back in Germany again and reports that in the town from which he wrote, there isn't a building that hasn't been hit by artillery. S/SGT. BOB GRIER '46 has been overseas for 11 months, eight of them spent in France and Belgium. One thing about being over there, he says, is the opportunity to see what a wonderful country the United States is. Over in Germany, CORPORAL JOHN KERIN '42 has seen plenty of proof (like Butterwick) that Uncle Sam can and does get mad. We got some beautiful pictures of the Cathedral at Rheims from SERGEANT WILLIAM RICHARDS '44, who reports that he has been living a comfortable and comparatively safe life. He says that although the altar in the Muhlenberg chapel may not be as large as some he has seen in Europe, it certainly is just as beautiful. T/SGT. RAY SCHOLL '46, who has been in Italy for several months, gave us his impressions of Italy in a little poem which we will try to pass on to you in a future issue of the Alumni Magazine. He likes the secure feeling of flying high above the white clouds but says you generally change that opinion when those black puffs of smoke start popping everywhere.

LIEUTENANT CLAUDE E. DIEROLF '43 spent two passes in London and found it to be quite a town. He also found Cambridge interesting, but we'll bet that piece of Jap invasion currency that came in the other day from LIEUTENANT SCRAPPER FARRELL '39 that Claude would still prefer Muhlenberg and Allentown. Marine Fighter Pilot DAVE BARBIERI '44 has been assigned to the first Marine air unit to operate from a carrier since before Pearl Harbor. This is the first time in history that Marines actually have fought from shipboard. PFC. LEN WETHERHOLD '43 has been traveling around on the other side of the Atlantic for some months and has spent brief periods in Scotland, England, France, and Belgium. Back in France once again, he says his travels are beginning to rival those of Gulliver. MAJOR RICHARD THOMPSON '41 gives us a lot of personal advice--but what interests him most is getting his own son Richard registered at Muhlenberg beginning this summer.

LIEUTENANT GEORGE H. ABEL '44, pilot of a B-24 Liberator and a member of the Red Raiders of the Fifth Air Force, has been awarded the Air Medal for meritorious achievement against the Japanese in raids in the Philippines. He also flew in the attack against Formosa when it was raided for the first time by the heavy bombers. PhM2/c JACK DOOLIN '35 wrote from the Pacific saying he is interested in taking some of the Armed Forces Institute classes. From the Marianas comes word that CAPTAIN PHIL ZULICK '34 is surgeon of his unit. This is his second tour of duty overseas, having previously spent 18 months in South America. LIEUTENANT CHUCK GARRETTSON '37 crashed through with another note from the Pacific where he had some contacts with the boys who made history with their smashing carrier-based raids on Tokyo. That reminds us to tell you that we suspect a few Muhlenberg Marines helped entertain the Nips on Iwo Jima and we're waiting--mighty anxiously at that--to

hear from them. How about it PETE GORGONE--that is when you get a chance and from the looks of things that should be before too long. We're just guessing on that, but we could be correct.

Here's some of the news from the boys on the Philippines--the mos advanced base we have in our files. S/SGT SPIROS CHIAPARAS '42, who has been overseas 26 months, tells us that he ran into LIEUTENANT ART WATSON '42 in the Solomons and that he sees LIEUTENANT SCRAPPER FARRELL '39 regularly in the Philippines. He says he has heard a lot of fellow talk to outsiders about Muhlenberg but that Scrapper beats them all. Everytime he and the former footballer get together over a few brews they wind up singing all the Muhlenberg songs they can remember. Out in Bougainville, Scrapper organized a touch football league. On Thanksgiving night his own team took the Navy 19 to 0 and on Christmas Eve laced the Marines 49 to 0. Scrapper reports that his offspring has reached the 20 pound class and already has kicked a seven-yard field goal. Note to Muhlenberg's next coach.

LIEUTENANT BEN JACOBS '41 dropped us a line from his foxhole on the Philippines confirming reports that the Nips are on the run. LIEUTENANT PAUL ARNER '43 was in on the invasion of Luzon, action in which his crew scored their first Jap plane. It was Paul's fifth major invasion and that should give him plenty to talk about at that victory reunion. Right now all he wants is a little rest and a visit to Muhlenberg. ENSIGN BOB HALDEMAN '44 is also in the Philippine area. In his added work as athletic officer he's promoting boxing bouts and hereby challenges any Muhlenberg men in the area who may be interested. Sorry we can't give you the name or number of his ship, for the censor says no. While in the Admiralties he had the luck to meet Dick Gottlie

Army Public Relations reports that LIEUTENANT ALLAN MAKI '44, co-pilot of a B-25 bomber, has been awarded the Air Medal for meritorious achievement in an attack on a ferry terminal at Ostiglia, Italy. The German that SERGEANT NORMAN HOFFMAN '46 picked up in Dr. Reichard's classes is coming in handy over in Alsace. He has been doing quite a bit of interpreting along with his other duties. CORPORAL BILL GANTERT '27, now in Luxembourg, gives Dr. Barba the same kind of credit. He says his Pennsylvania Dutch also is useful.

CORPORAL BILL OSWALD '47 dropped us a note from France the other day and seemed happy enough. CAPTAIN MORT SILVERMAN '34, who is living in a tent near Paris in six inches of snow, says there's nothing like eating lunch in a blinding snow storm. They had quite a Muhlenberg reunion over in Italy the other day when Lt.Col. FRANK M. BROWN '19 and MAJOR CLIFF TREXLER '22 had dinner together. They are looking for another alumnus or two to organize a Muhlenberg-in-Italy club.

Now it's time to get along with those promotions. We'll catch up with the rest of the correspondence in the March issue of the Alumni Magazine--we hope.

Here are the advances we've heard about in the past two weeks: SECOND LIEUTENANT WALTER WELLER '44; T/5 ROBERT MUMMA '44; CAPTAIN FRANK BOYER '38; ENSIGN IRVING S. BENNETT '44; LIEUTENANT RAY HEIST '33; SECOND LIEUTENANT WILLIAM LEHR '38; CORPORAL RAY COWARD '45; ENSIGN WILLIAM CROASDALE '45; MAJOR EUGENE LANING '40; ENSIGN FRANKLIN REESE '44; W.O.(jg) WALTER WOLFE '29; SERGEANT JOSEPH MILLER '42; LT.COL. A. HENRY GLAGGETT '33; SECOND LIEUTENANT FRANK JAKOBOWSKI '43; SEAMAN FIRST CLASS ELMER SASSAMAN '45; ENSIGN RICHARD HOLMES '45; LIEUTENANT ROBERT TRIMBLE '40; CORPORAL [illegible] TRAINER '47; LIEUTENANT (jg) HARRY McDONOUGH '39; SEAMAN SECOND CLASS DAVID KOENIGER '44; ENSIGN WELLING ADAMS '44; CORPORAL EDWARD ANDREWS '44; Sp(c)2/c MORRIS PERKIN '29; PRIVATE FIRST CLASS MICHAEL ORLANDO '43; T/5 ERNEST WALLANDER '46; FIREMAN 1/c EDWIN KOCH '43; ENSIGN ROBERT KINARD '42; and ENSIGN HAROLD HUTTON '46.

I hope every one of the 1795 Muhlenberg men in service who we hope will receive this letter will regard it as a strictly personal one. It's meant that way--and our wish for the best of everything to each one of you is personal too.

P.S. Thanks for all your swell letters.
G.B.F.

Yours for Victory,

Gordon

Gordon B. Fister
For the Alumni Office